

**Table 21. Number, percent distribution, and therapeutic classification for the 20 drugs most frequently prescribed at office visits with corresponding standard errors, by entry name of drug: United States, 1999**

Entry name of drug <sup>1</sup>	Number of drug mentions in thousands	Standard error in thousands	Percent distribution	Standard error of percent	Therapeutic classification <sup>2</sup>
All drug mentions. . . . .	1,136,686	63,340	100.0	...	...
Claritin . . . . .	15,978	1,758	1.4	0.1	Antihistamines
Lasix . . . . .	12,910	1,281	1.1	0.1	Diuretics
Prednisone . . . . .	12,705	1,606	1.1	0.1	Adrenal corticosteroids
Synthroid. . . . .	12,520	1,332	1.1	0.1	Thyroid agents
Lipitor. . . . .	12,319	1,709	1.1	0.1	Hyperlipidemia
Premarin . . . . .	11,878	1,319	1.0	0.1	Estrogens/progestins
Prilosec. . . . .	11,704	1,448	1.0	0.1	Gastric antisecretory agents
Tylenol . . . . .	11,366	1,583	1.0	0.1	Nonnarcotic analgesics
Amoxicillin . . . . .	10,623	1,521	0.9	0.1	Penicillins
Celebrex . . . . .	9,531	1,585	0.8	0.1	NSAID <sup>3</sup>
Norvasc . . . . .	8,769	1,263	0.8	0.1	Calcium channel blockers
Albuterol sulfate . . . . .	8,612	1,255	0.8	0.1	Antiasthmatics/bronchodilators
Zoloft . . . . .	8,351	890	0.7	0.1	Antidepressants
Coumadin . . . . .	8,081	865	0.7	0.1	Anticoagulants/thrombolytics
Prozac . . . . .	7,922	843	0.7	0.1	Antidepressants
Paxil . . . . .	7,858	928	0.7	0.1	Antidepressants
Atenolol . . . . .	7,750	727	0.7	0.1	Beta blockers
Lanoxin. . . . .	7,707	1,077	0.7	0.1	Cardiac glycosides
Motrin. . . . .	7,417	1,186	0.7	0.1	Antiarthritics
Keflex. . . . .	7,190	1,369	0.6	0.1	Cephalosporins
All others. . . . .	935,497	51,930	82.3	0.5	...

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>The entry made by the physician on the prescription or other medical records. This may be a trade name, generic name, or desired therapeutic effect.

<sup>2</sup>Based on the *National Drug Code Directory*, 1995 edition (20). In cases where a drug had more than one therapeutic use, it was classified under its primary therapeutic use.

<sup>3</sup>NSAID is nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Table 22. Number and percent distribution with corresponding standard errors of New Molecular Entities mentioned at office visits: United States, 1999**

Trade name	Number of drug mentions in thousands	Standard error in thousands	Percent distribution	Standard error of percent	Year FDA approved <sup>1</sup>	Description
All NME's <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	42,394	3,723	100.0	...	...	
Celebrex . . . . .	9,531	1,582	22.5	2.6	1998	NSAID <sup>3</sup> for signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis
Raxar . . . . .	3,904	783	9.2	1.6	1997	Quinolone for chronic bronchitis, pneumonia, gonorrhea, cervicitis, and urethritis
Celexa . . . . .	3,564	607	8.4	1.4	1998	Antidepressant
Viagra . . . . .	2,654	512	6.3	1.1	1998	Vascular disorders especially erectile dysfunction
Vioxx . . . . .	2,625	536	6.2	1.1	1999	NSAID <sup>3</sup> for relieving pain and inflammation from osteoarthritis
Singulair . . . . .	*2,478	790	*5.8	1.8	1998	Antiasthmatic
Rezulin . . . . .	2,437	530	5.7	1.1	1997	Blood glucose regulator for type II diabetes
Avapro . . . . .	1,974	453	4.7	1.0	1997	Antihypertensive for treating hypertension
Detrol . . . . .	1,973	307	4.7	0.7	1998	Urinary tract antiseptics for controlling urination urgency
Plavix . . . . .	1,785	398	4.2	0.9	1997	Anticoagulant for reduction of atherosclerotic events
Flomax . . . . .	1,365	299	3.2	0.7	1997	Antihypertensive for treating symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia
Other NME's <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	8,105	1,032	19.1	2.1	...	...

... Category not applicable.

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>FDA is Food and Drug Administration.

<sup>2</sup>NME is New Molecular Entities.

<sup>3</sup>NSAID is nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug.

NOTE: NME is defined as a new drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration within the last 3 years (1997–99).